

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 098624

R 270715Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5888

INFO COMIDEASTFOR

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USS ADAMS

USS MCCANDLESS

USS KOELSCH

USS BRUMBY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 1818

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ MARR, PFOR, MA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS STORIES ON DIEGO-SUAREZ SHIP VISIT CANCELLATION

REF: STATE 250131 (NOTAL)

1. TWO MOST WIDELY READ TANANARIVE FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS, "MADAGASCAR MATIN" AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MADAGASCAR PRESSE DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN, GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE MORNING DEC 27 TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE STORY, DATELINED WASHINGTON DEC 26, ON MALAGASY GOVT'S RECENT DECISION TO CANCEL US NAVY SHIP VISIT DIEGO-SUAREZ. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SIMILAR STORY BROADCAST VOA MORNING DEC 27.

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2. FREE TRANSLATION TEXT OF STORY FOLLOWS: "MADAGASCAR RECENTLY

CANCELLED SCHEDULED VISIT DIEGO-SUAREZ OF TWO (SIC) AMERICAN DESTROYERS FROM "TASK FORCE" OPERATING IN INDIAN OCEAN. THIS CALL, IT WAS LEARNED WEDNESDAY, SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER 18 AND 22, BUT MALAGASY GOVERNMENT INFORMED UNITED STATES THAT THIS PORT HAD NEITHER ENOUGH SPACE TO RECEIVE THESE SHIPS NOR ENOUGH FUEL. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPERTS THINK, HOWEVER, THAT TANANARIVE GOVT WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE BY THIS GESTURE, AND TO THE ARAB WORLD IN PARTICULAR, ITS NON-ALIGNMENT VIS-A-VIS UNITED STATES. VISIT BY TWO AMERICAN WARSHIPS COULD HAVE OFFENDED ARAB SENSITIVENESS, IT IS BELIEVE AT PENTAGON."

3. REFTTEL RECEIVED AFTER ABOVE DRAFTED. EMBASSY/USIS WILL BE GUIDED THEREBY SHOULD FURTHER PRESS QUERIES ARISE LOCALLY. MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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